

CHARRTS No.: SASC-12-100  
Hearing Date: March 27, 2014  
Committee: SASC  
Member: Senator Inhofe  
Witness: ADM Greenert  
Question: #100  
Approved by: Mr. Lluy

EA-18G

Question: Admiral Greenert, I understand that in response to a letter from the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) asking you to provide a list of requirements that were unfunded but for which there is a validated requirement, the Navy has listed, among other things, 22 F-18G Growlers at a cost of over \$2 billion. Has this requirement for additional Growlers above the current program of record (135 aircraft) been validated through the Joint Capabilities Integration and Development System (JCIDS) process and approved by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC), and if so, who is leading this study or studies?

Answer: The JROC has validated the Navy's Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) force structure. The addition of 22 EA-18Gs will be used to augment existing Navy squadrons in the execution of the joint AEA missions allowing carrier squadrons to deploy with seven aircraft vice their current complement of five aircraft per squadron. The additional aircraft will reduce risk in meeting operational demand for multi-ship tactics and the potential increased need for joint AEA. As nations expand their use of the Electro Magnetic Spectrum (EMS), the ability to perform the AEA mission will become more critical and buying additional EA-18Gs in FY15 reduces risk in our ability to meet future joint AEA demand.

Electromagnetic Warfare is a core competency and primary mission area of the Joint Force. Operating in anti-access / area denial (A2/AD) contested environments requires precise control of the EMS. EA-18Gs bring the fundamental attributes of range, speed, persistence, and flexibility to regions of the globe where AEA capability is required to support the Joint Force whether with sea-based or land-based aircraft.

The Growler will soon be the only DoD tactical AEA aircraft in the joint force inventory and is required to support both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generation strike fighter aircraft. With legacy jamming pods or Next Generation Jammers the EA-18G provides precise control of a broad range of the EMS to create sanctuaries for the Joint force, denying enemy access to portions of the EMS.